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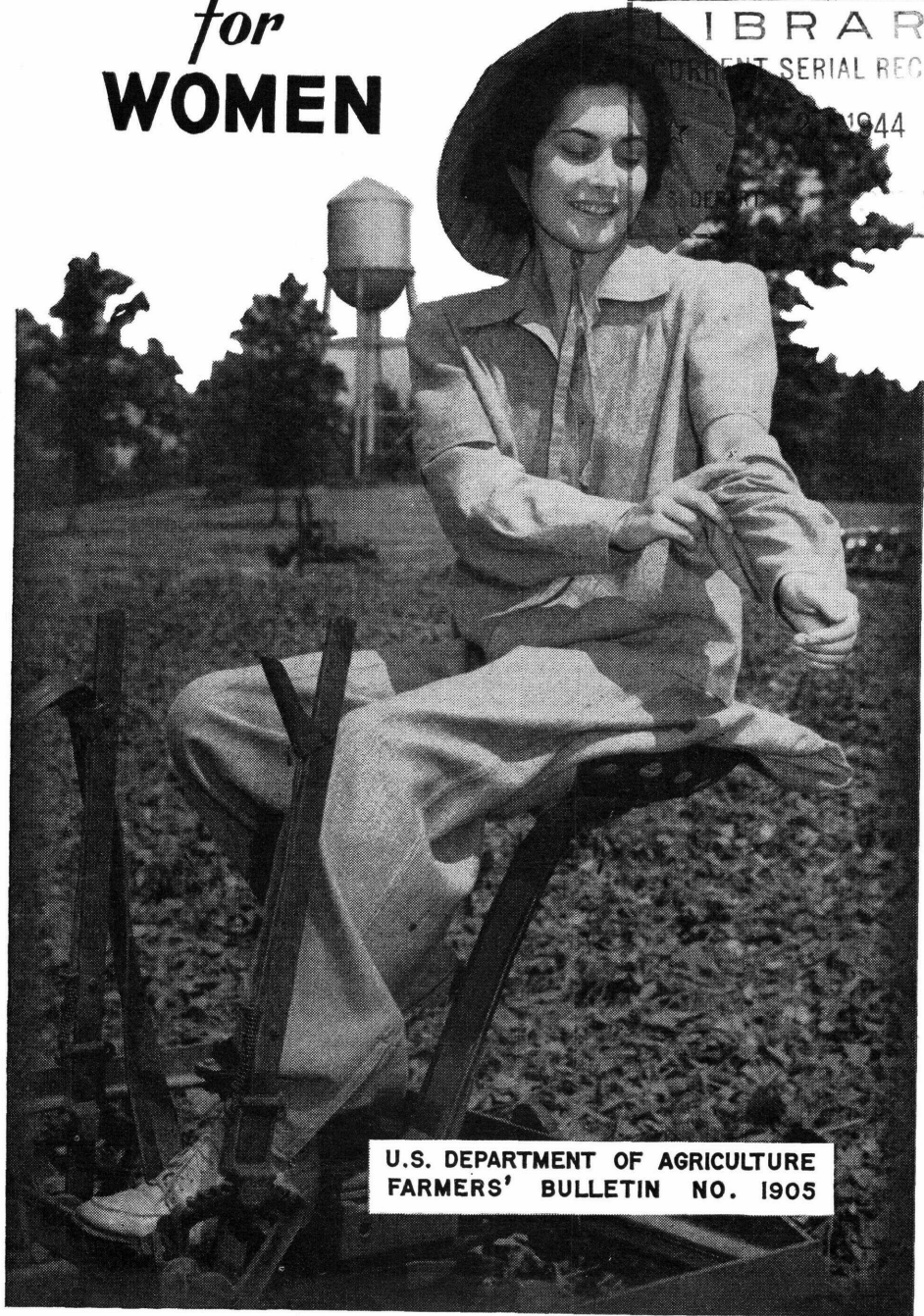
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WORK CLOTHES

for
WOMEN

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CONTENTS

	Page
Know your job and dress for it.....	3
Field suit.....	4
Mechanic's suit.....	6
Jumper-slack suit.....	6
Protect-all.....	8
Food-preparation dress.....	9
Divided-skirt dress.....	11
Belted coverall apron.....	11
Surplice coverall apron.....	12
Laboratory dress.....	12
Surplice house dress.....	13
Coverette.....	14
Princess coverall apron.....	15
Nurse's uniform.....	16
Utility aprons.....	16

WORK CLOTHES FOR WOMEN

by

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WITH more and more women in war jobs there is an increasing demand for specially designed work clothes. Whether the job is in a factory, on a farm, or in the home, women want work outfits that are both practical and comfortable, yet inexpensive to make or buy. For some kinds of work a dress or apron serves well; for others, trousered garments are better.

With the requirements of particular jobs in mind, the Bureau of Home Economics is designing clothes for women who do active work. All the styles have special features planned for safety, comfort, freedom of activity, and pleasing appearance.

These designs are released to patternmakers and the clothing trade as soon as they are completed. Most of the styles shown here are now on sale to the public through retail outlets either as commercial patterns or as ready-to-wear garments.

KNOW YOUR JOB AND DRESS FOR IT

Before selecting a work outfit, study the job so that you will know exactly what your duties are. Consider the points listed below—they will help you to choose a design that is right for the job you have to do.

ACTION ROOM. A work garment needs to fit well but to have plenty of room for action. If the job calls for stooping and reaching, then choose an outfit with stooping and reaching room built into it.

DESIGN FOR SERVICE. All the styles shown here are simple and streamlined to the figure. Every seam serves a purpose. Pockets are useful. Strong stitching and sturdy fasteners all add to the life of the garment. There are no fancy trimmings. The outfits are simple to make and easy to wash and iron.

CLOTH TO WASH AND WEAR. Hard wear calls for strong, closely woven material. A work outfit must also stand many hard washings. Choose colors fast to water, light, perspiration. To be sure that the garment will fit after it is washed, buy materials that are preshrunk. Look for labels giving this information either on the material or on a ready-made outfit.

BECOMING COLOR. Work clothes can be pretty as well as practical. There are nice blues, greens, hennas, and many other colors that give a "lift" to the workers themselves and to those about them.

"SAFETY-FIRST" FEATURES. If the job is around dangerous machinery, pockets placed so they will not catch, shaped-in trouser legs, and freedom from loose sashes or ties help to prevent accidents.

TIME-SAVING STYLES. Openings the right length are placed so that the garment is easy to put on and take off. Fasteners easy to open and close save much time in dressing. Savers in dressing time also are the surplice styles—some are made to step into—others can be pulled on over the head. Fasten with a tie or snap, and you are ready for work.

FIELD SUIT

The field suit is designed for the heavier kinds of outdoor work that many women do. Driving farm machinery or trucks, helping around the barns, caring for the stock, working in the fields—all these require a sturdy suit that allows freedom of action and is reasonably cool for hot weather.

The slacks of this suit have two small pleats set in at each side of the waist, both back and front. On hot days this makes them cooler and more comfortable than trousers closely fitted about the hips. The ankles are shaped in and close with slide fasteners to keep them from catching on things or dragging in the dirt. They also keep out grasshoppers.

The shirt-jacket worn outside the trousers is cooler and more comfortable than a tuck-in blouse. The neckline may be either closed or left open. At the back, gathers set in below a shallow yoke and near the sleeves give the arms plenty of reaching room. Deep pockets at the front of the jacket are handy for gloves and handkerchief.

The lower part of the sleeves can be quickly snapped in as protection against sunburn or scratches and easily jerked out when short sleeves are wanted. The suit looks neater and is more comfortable if the lower sleeves are taken off rather than rolled up.

You can make the coolie hat shown here from leftovers of the material. Use a contrasting color, restful to the eyes, for the lining. The hat is stiffened with pieces of cardboard which can be cut from the children's old tablet backs. Snaps pounded in with a hammer hold the slats in place. The chin strap is fastened into the top of the hat and is held under



A sturdy two-piece outfit for heavy outdoor work. Comfort is the keynote. The lower sleeves snap on and off; the shirt has an action back; fitted ankles with slide fasteners will not catch on machinery or trip the wearer.

the chin by slipping both ends through a wooden bead or a tiny spool like those used for darning cotton.

Denim, gabardine, and covert are suitable materials for a field suit. But if summers are hot, a cotton that is sturdy, yet not so closely woven, is more comfortable.

MECHANIC'S SUIT

The mechanic's suit, so-called because it is designed for women who work around machinery, is comfortable and practical for women mechanics, gasoline-station attendants, and some factory workers.

Plenty of action room is built into this suit—gathers below the shallow yoke in the back and loose short sleeves provide freedom for the arms. The boxed crotch and darts set in below the waistline give bending and stooping room.

The long front opening makes the suit easy to get into, and the slide fastener prevents gaps which might catch on machinery. Slide fasteners at the sides and a close-fitting belt which fastens at the front hold up the drop back. The belt fastens with an adjustable sliding snap buckle which unsnaps if the belt ever catches on anything, thus avoiding any injury to the worker or damage to the suit.

The shaped-in legs of this suit do not collect soil. They will not catch on machinery, and there is no danger of tripping.

The folding pockets on the waist and hip will hold a purse and other small belongings. They are fastened with snaps so that nothing will fall out even when you bend or stoop. A matching cap with a visor protects hair and eyes. The cap opens out flat for ironing, and a snap buckle adjusts it to fit any size head.

The suit should be made up in a sturdy washable material—gabardine, covert, or denim of soft quality may be used in a variety of colors.

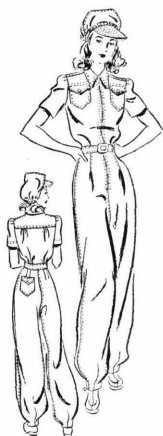
JUMPER-SLACK SUIT

Jumper slacks are suitable for general chore work on a farm and for industrial work requiring slacks and a blouse. The two-piece outfit shown here is planned to do away with the problem of pulled-out blouse tails, for they can be a real hazard. It is more comfortable on hot days than a one-piece suit made entirely of heavy cotton since a cool blouse may be worn with it.

The slacks are cut in one piece. Small pleats and darts give the shape and width needed below the waistline. The crotch of the jumper has a boxed cut that makes it comfortable for bending and stooping. A long front opening with snap fasteners permits quick, easy dressing. The small inside pockets set in the yokeline are handy for small articles.

The loose, action back of the blouse provides plenty of reaching room. The blouse may have either open neck and short sleeves or high neckline and long sleeves to protect against sunburn and scratches.

Sturdy cotton material, such as denim, is good for the jumper slacks. Chambray or gingham is comfortable and durable enough for the blouse since it does not receive as hard wear as the jumper.



A one-piece coverall with plenty of stooping and reaching room built in. Shaped-in ankles with slide fasteners cannot trip the worker or drag in the dirt.



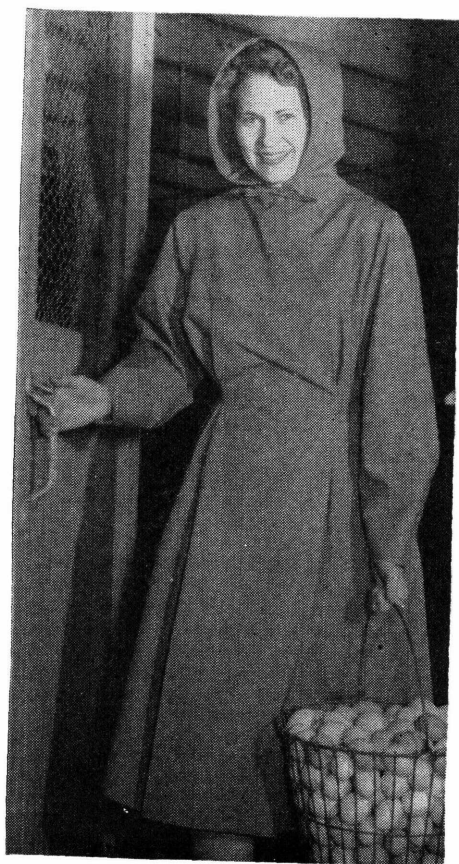
Wear this jumper-slack suit with a light or heavy blouse. The legs may be straight or shaped-in at the ankles.

PROTECT-ALL

The protect-all slips on over the head and ties at the back, so there are no openings to blow open on windy or wet days. The hood, cut in one with the rest of the garment, can be worn loosely or, on blustery days, pulled up and tied under the chin.

The surplice yoke and cuffs close automatically. The cuffs keep the sleeves out of the way; yet they spread comfortably when a coat or a sweater is worn underneath. They can even be rolled back if necessary. Action pleats in the back and a square inset under each arm give plenty of reaching room. Large pockets for mittens and handkerchief are set in at the side seams and stitched to the front of the skirt.

Bias-cut leggings and boxed mittens lined for warmth complete the protect-all. The firmly woven showerproofed, yet washable cotton of this outfit gives real protection against snow and cold. For extra protection warm tights and a sweater are ideal.



For outdoor work on windy or wet days, wear this showerproof and windproof outfit. With a coat or sweater and tights underneath, it is warm enough for the coldest days. The bias-cut leggings and lined, boxed mittens complete the outfit.



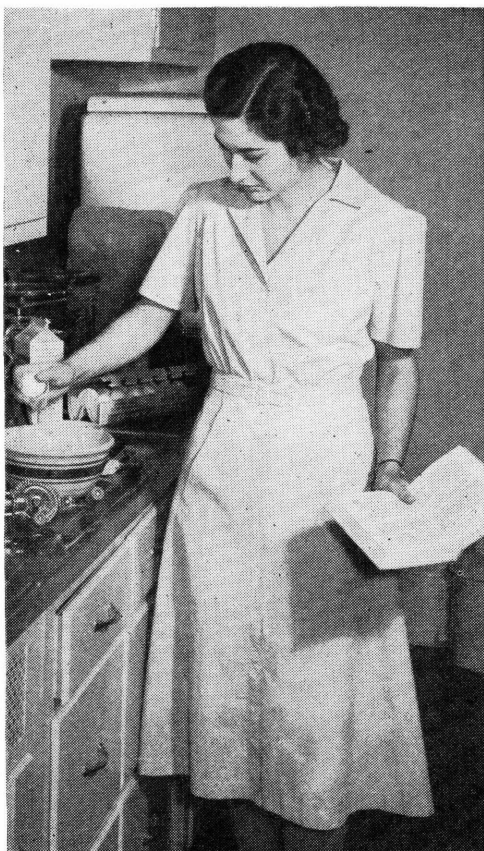
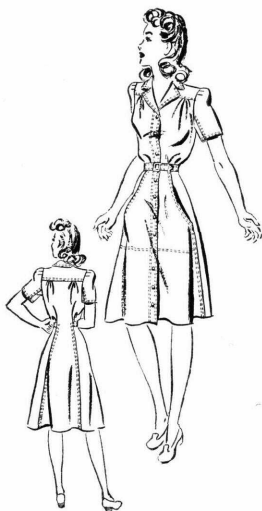
FOOD-PREPARATION DRESS

Women whose job it is to prepare food in a laboratory or for large groups of people need dresses that are neat and trim looking, yet practical.

The dress shown here has special features designed for the comfort and convenience of the worker. The full-length, front opening with snaps makes the dress easy to put on and take off without mussing the hair. Roomy pockets are placed at the front of the skirt, where they are most useful. Shoulder gathers at the back and front and insets under the sleeves allow plenty of reaching room. A sliding buckle adjusts the belt to fit any size waist.

Cotton seersucker in white or any cool light color is suitable for a food-preparation dress—it does not show wrinkles and need not be ironed. Crisply starched cottons look well but must be washed and ironed often because they wrinkle so quickly.

This quick-to-put-on dress with full-length front opening, action back, and handy pockets, provides the utmost in "cooking comfort."





A practical all-in-one garment that looks like a dress but has the convenience of trousers.



Slipped on over a blouse or dress, this apron is an ideal outfit for home and some factory work.



DIVIDED-SKIRT DRESS

A divided-skirt dress or culotte is suggested for women who want work clothes that look like a dress, yet have the convenience of trousers. The one-piece culotte shown here is cooler to wear, cheaper to make, and neater looking than the usual two-piece, tuck-in style.

This design has been carefully cut to provide plenty of bending and reaching room. The blouse is loose and easy fitting, both back and front. In the back, fullness is set in below a square yoke which takes the place of a collar.

A slight flare hides the division of the skirt. Slide fasteners at the sides and a belt that fits close to the back and snaps at the front hold up the drop back. Three rows of elastic shirring along the waistline keep the blouse from pulling out at the back.

Seersucker is a good material for a culotte—it is cool, needs little pressing, and is heavy enough so that a slip or petticoat is not needed. Look for these qualities when choosing material for any one-piece work garment.

BELTED COVERALL APRON

The coverall apron is a practical outfit for work around the home and for some kinds of factory work. Slip it on over a dress or blouse—it protects the skirt and waist both in back and front.

The belted style shown here is designed for women who like fitted waists and hips. The pockets are conveniently placed. They are simply made by cutting the lower part of the side front gore so that it laps well up over the top part. When the skirt is seamed, the pockets are made.

A bib in front and back protects the waist where it is most likely to be soiled. The shoulder straps will not slide off the shoulders. Ring-style snaps hold the front closing so there are no ugly gaps. These snaps are easy to pound in with a hammer, and they save the trouble of working buttonholes.

The apron is designed and made to stand hard wear and many washings. All edges, including the lower edge, which has no waste material as a hem, are simply finished with a one-fourth inch hem and stitched twice. Tape laid between the apron and its front facing gives the strength needed for snap fasteners.

Sturdy, preshrunk chambray in a gay but fast color is a good material for this apron—it will stand hard wear and is neat in appearance.

SURPLICE COVERALL APRON

The surplice coverall apron shown here protects the dress completely. It fastens at the back, and the fitted bodice adapts to full or slender figures. One fastener at each side holds the apron in place.

A single piece of cloth makes the two large pockets, placed for working convenience on the front of the skirt. Double-stitched edges, simple flat seaming, and sturdy reinforcements make the apron practical.

Low-cost work cottons in gay colors which wear well, are easy to iron, and keep fresh looking are practical materials for this apron.

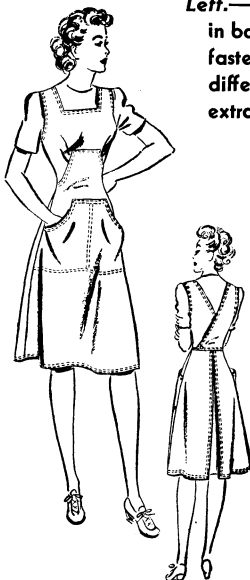
LABORATORY DRESS

Women scientists who work in laboratories often want easy-to-slip-into washable dresses which will save those worn to and from work. The dress shown here fastens at the back, wrap-around style. It has one strong snap fastener at each side of the waist and two at the back of the neck.

The back is cut on the bias and in surplice style, so the arms have plenty of freedom for the reaching and stretching that laboratory work often requires.

Two pockets on the chest are high enough to be out of the way of the usual working level. They are large enough for a handkerchief, locker key, and other small articles.

Cotton seersucker is a good material for this dress. It is easy to launder and is comfortable and does not wrinkle readily.



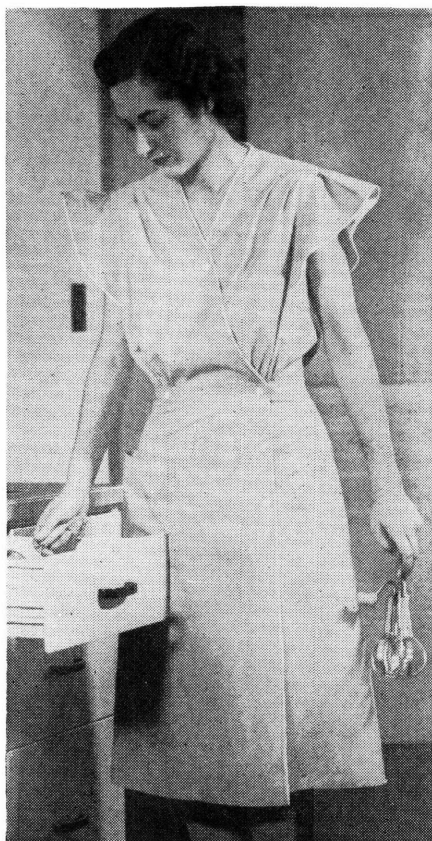
Left.—This apron protects the dress, both in back and in front. The surplice closing fastens at the back and adjusts to different-size waistlines. Pockets are extra large to hold working tools.

Right.—Wear this dress in the laboratory to save your street dress. Handy pockets and plenty of reaching room are built into the blouse.





On warm days—in hot kitchens—keep cool and comfortable in this collarless-sleeveless house dress. It will stand hard wear and is easy to wash and iron.



SURPLICE HOUSE DRESS

Women who spend long hours in hot kitchens want cool, pretty dresses that are easy to get into. The surplice dress shown here is collarless and has only a suggestion of sleeves rather than those which might cling to the arms on warm days. No petticoat is needed if the material is percale or a similar material. Two fasteners hold the dress at the waist, and the skirt is fastened to the bend of the hips to keep it from swinging open too far.

Seams and finishes are flat, simple to make, and easy to iron neatly. The sleeve caps and underarm pieces are set into the waist with continuous seams so that they will wear longer and look better. Rickrack binding with one side of the binding cut away makes the attractive finish. It is double-stitched along the edges to make a flat and strong finish, easy to iron.

On the right side of the skirt is a roomy pocket. The top corners are barred with stitching, and a tape stay underneath will protect even more against accidental tears.



Easy to get into and with plenty of action room and buttoned ankles that are snug fitting and safe, this one-piece outfit makes jobs seem easier.

COVERETTE

The surplice coverette is suitable for both indoor and outdoor chores — housecleaning, tending chickens, milking, and gardening. It is an outfit easy to get into—just step into it, pull it up, tie the sash ends, and you are ready for work. For gardening or going up and down steps or ladders, fasten the tabs at each side of the leg over the button at the center front. This protects from soil and danger of tripping.

In the back, shoulder fullness set well over toward the sleeves below a shallow yoke provides plenty of reaching room. The back of the suit is comfortably long for stooping and bending; yet a boxed cut through the crotch keeps the seat neat in appearance. The low V neckline with an almost flat tailored collar doesn't crowd up around the neck.

The bonnet shown with this suit is a modern version of the old slat style. It snaps together at the back so it can be opened out flat for removing the pieces of cardboard and laundering. The slats are placed crosswise

so they can be turned forward to shade the face when working in the sun. Fold back one or two slats when protection of hair is all that is needed.

Good-quality seersucker is the preferred material—it wears well, is cool, is easy to wash, needs little ironing, and does not wrinkle readily. Also it is heavy enough so that it requires few undergarments and thus cuts down on washings and keeps you cooler.

PRINCESS COVERALL APRON

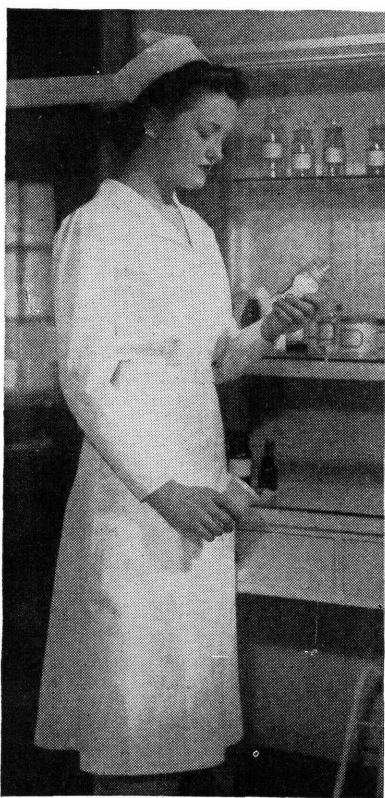
A coverall apron, cut on princess lines with built-up sides, is designed for wear over a dress or blouse. The full-length, front opening fastens with snaps which are pounded in with a hammer. Tape inside the front facings reinforces the snaps. Handy pockets, placed in the front seams, are cut in one with the apron and fit so closely they will not catch and tear. All edges, including the lower one, are finished with narrow hems twice-stitched to make the apron strong. This saves material.

Heavy work chambray, denim, or similar cottons make durable aprons for indoor work. If made of showerproof cotton and with matching fitted leggings, this is a good outfit for wet outdoor jobs—picking vegetables in a damp garden or washing the car. Instead of soaking into the material, water rolls off, and dirt can be wiped off easily.



When there's wet work to do, wear this showerproof apron and leggings. Slide fasteners up the front and elastic just above the calf and under the shoe hold the leggings in place.





Cotton finished so that it repels water and needs no starch is crisp and practical in a nurse's uniform.



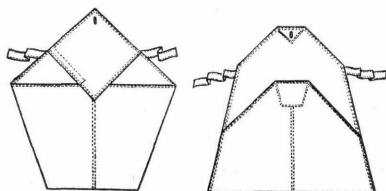
NURSE'S UNIFORM

In this uniform there is the comfort and freedom of action, plus dignity that nurses want.

High points of the design are a full-length front opening closed with ring-style snaps, an open neck with a tailored flat collar, collapsible pockets that lie flat for ironing, a spreading back, and sleeves that can be readily folded up.

UTILITY APRONS

For carrying clothespins or seed packets, stout little aprons with big pockets are handy. The two shown here are made of 1 yard or less of material. They are bias-cut with edges on the straight of the goods and narrow, double-stitched hems that make a strong finish.



The aprons may be buttoned to the front of a dress and tied or snapped about the waist, or if the waist ties are made longer they can be crossed at the back, brought up over the shoulders, and buttoned at the front point.